(b) if so, the names of the States that have failed to spend allocated funds for the family planning programmes; and

(c) the steps Government proposed to take to see that the funds allocated to the State for health care are fully utilized?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The percentage increase in budget allocation for health sector during 2006-07 as compared to 2005-06 had been 21.87%.

Funds are allocated to States in the form of Grants-in-aid under Health and Family Welfare in respect of the admissible activities under National AIDS Control Programme (NACO) and the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Besides these programmes, grant-in-aid is also released under certain other programmes like Cancer, Mental Health, etc., based on proposals received from State Governments.

Data on the extent of utilization of funds by States reveals that of the eighteen States having week public health indicators/week infrastructure, identified for special attention under the NRHM, eight states *viz.*, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Sikkim have utilized more than 50% of allocated funds on Family Planning Programmes while others have utilized funds of a lower order.

(c) Steps initiated for better utilization of funds include *inter-alia*:

Setting up of a Financial Management Group (FMG) in the Ministry to oversee the release of funds, monitor Utilization Certificates and Audit Reports.

Establishing State/District Level Programme Management Units.

Augmentation of accounting manpower at the level of PHCs.

Regular monitoring by the Ministry for timely completion of plan activities.

Issuing guidelines to States to facilitate utilization for funds and proper maintenance of accounts.

Conducting of training programme for skill development and capacity building of personnel.

Utilization certificates under NRHM

1439. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health in its 20th report has noted that the highly-acclaimed National Rural Health Mission of Government is a non starter in many of the crucial States enlisted under the Mission;

(b) if so, what are the main points mentioned by the Committee;

(c) whether he has expressed concern over delay in reporting of fund utilization in various health programmes including National Rural Health Mission which has led to large pendency of utilization certificates; and

(d) what are the steps his Ministry is considering to take to obtain utilization certificates of the funds used for health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Committee has however noted the uneven pace of progress of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) across various States. The Committee has also noted that in some States like Uttar Pradesh, NRHM is yet to take off. The Committee has also observed that the Preparatory activities have been completed in 17 non-high focus States.

This Ministry has undertaken active steps for reducing number and amount of pending Utilisation Certificates from States. Inspite of higher allocation for health sector, the outstanding balances have been curtailed. The Ministry is in regular touch with States for obtaining the Financial Management Reports. The stakeholders in States have also been trained on critical role of financial management through regular courses and workshops. Under NRHM, Financial management capacity of States and districts has been augmented through the State and District Programme Management Units which have personnel with accountancy and management background.

UNICEF programme on iodized salt

†1440. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNICEF is organizing various programmes in different parts of the country with Government and non-Government organizations for publicizing iodized salt as protector of intelligence and strength;

(b) whether it is also a fact that UNICEF organized one such programme at Agra on April 12, 2007 and told-the number of people suffering from deficiency of iodine in Uttar Pradesh as ten crores; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that several doctors of S.N. Medical College, Agra have conducted research work on presence of sufficient amount of iodine naturally in a lot of food items in Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) UNICEF in collaboration with the Government of India and State Governments and other partners, undertakes activities contributing to accelerated child survival, nutrition development and protection outcomes in identified States. This includes support for promoting (...

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.